

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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USDOC WASHDC

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PASS OES/OFA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, BEXP, NI
SUBJECT:DIRECTOR NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHIC AND MARINE
RESEARCH TO VISIT US

1. MR. E. O. BAYAGBONA, DIRECTOR NIGERIAN INSTITUTE FOR
OCEANOGRAPHY ACD MARINE RESEARCH (NIOMR) SENT EMBASSY COPY OF
LETTER MAILED JANUARY 14 TO: A) DIRECTOR, SKIDAWAY INSTITUTE
OF OCEANOGRAPHY, SKIDAWAY ISLAND, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31406; AND
B) DR. FRANK WILLIAMS, ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL OF MARINE AND
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES, DIVISION OF BIOLOGY AND LIVING RESOURCES,
4600 RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33149. TEXT OF
LETTER PARAPHRASED FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH.

2. NIOMR RECENTLY ESTABLISHED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NIGERIA
AS GOVERNMENT OWNED RESEARCH INSTITUTE. IN ORDER OBTAIN IDEAS
ON ORGANIZATION OF INSTITUTION AND ACTIVITIES IT SHOULD
UNDERTAKE, HAS BEEN DECIDED CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNING BOARD AND
MYSELF WILL VISIT NUMBER PROMINENT SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.
WISH ESTABLISH CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH SUCH INSTITUTIONS IN OTHER
COUNTRIES. SBUECT YOUR APPROVAL, WILL VISIT YOUR INSTITUTION
SOMETIME DURING LAST THREE WEEKS MARCH 1977 FOR ABOUT ONE WORKING
DAY. EXACT DATE DEPENDS ON REPLIES RECEIVED AND FLIGHT SCHEDULES.

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GRATEFUL ANY OPPORTUNITIES SEE EXISTING FACILITIES, RESEARCH
VESSELS, MAJOR EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL. WISH DISCUSS YOUR RESEARCH
PROGRAM, TRAINING OF PERSONNEL, HOW RESEARCH FINDINGS PUT TO
PRACTICAL USE, PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO INSTITUTIONS OF THIS KIND,
AND POSSIBILITY FORMAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH YOUR
INSTITUTION. KINDLY ADVISE REACTION AND WHETHER PROPOSED TIME
CONVENIENT.

3. EMBOFF PAID CALL ON BAYAGBONA JANUARY 21 TO ASCERTAIN HIS INTEREST VISITING OTHER WELL KNOWN US OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS WOODS HOLE OR SCRIPPS. BAYAGBONA WELL AWARE REPUTATIONS THESE INSTITUTIONS, SAID TWO SMALL ONES HAD BEEN SELECTED BECAUSE IT FELT THEY MIGHT BE BETTER ABLE TO RELATE TO PROBLEMS OF SMALL AND LESS SOPHISTICATED ORGANIZATION LIKE NIOMR. ALSO, HE PREFERRED STICK TO EAST COAST GIVEN TIME LIMITS. HOWEVER, HE DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT IF WOODS HOLE WOULD BE ABLE SEE HIM AND CHAIRMAN GOVERNING BOARD.

4. BAYAGBONA FAMILIAR WITH RESULTS OF WOODS HOLE RESEARCH VESSEL ATLANTIS II SURVEY OF WEST AFRICAN COAST IN 1973 (SEE 75 STATE A-5870, 76 LAGOS 0093, AND 76 STATEA-1011). HE MENTIONED THAT ATLANTIS FINDINGS HAD HELPED NIGERIA IN DECIDING AT LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT REDEFINED CONTINENTAL SHELF RATHER THAN STRICT 200 MILE LIMIT AS BASIS FOR MINING RIGHTS. ALTHOUGH NIGERIA'S EASTERN LIMITS RESTRICTED BY WESTWARD EXTENSION OF GABON'S LIMITS, NIGERIA HAD FOUND THAT UNDER NEW DEFINITION ITS WESTERN CONTINENTAL SHELF EXTENDED BEYOND 200 MILES SOUTH OF LAGOS.

5. OF COMMERCIAL INTEREST, BAYAGBONE SAID NIOMR HAD DECIDED BUY 120 FOOT RESEARCH VESSEL OF ITS OWN. WHEN SPECS ISSUED LAST YEAR, NO US FIRM INTERESTED. BAYAGBONE EXPECTED FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO AWARD CONTRACT TO GERMAN FIRM NEXT WEEK. IN ADDITION, ONE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT TO US MARINE RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS WILL BE TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON KIND OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED ABOARD RESEARCH VESSEL AND NAMES MANUFACTURERS WHO SUPPLY MOST UP-TO-DATE MODELS. BAYAGVONE SAID NIOMR WILL PROBABLY BUY AT LEAST SOME US EQUIPMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED FACSIMILE TRANSMITTERS). TENDERS FOR THIS RESEARCH EQUIPMENT WILL BE ISSUED LATER IN YEAR AFTER HIS US TRIP.

6. BAYAGBONE, WHO WAS DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES DEPARTMENT BEFORE BECOMING DIRECTOR NIOMR, ALSO MENTIONED THAT NIGERIAN NATIONAL SHRIMP COMPANY (NNSC), JOINT FMG VENTURE WITH CONTINENTAL SEAFOODS IN PROCESSING PLANT AT SAPELE, HAS ORDERED SIXTEEN 17 FOOT SHRIMP TRAWLERS FROM BENDER MARINE OF US. BENDER NOW CONSTRUCTING 11 VESSELS, HAS SUBCONTRACTED 5 TO QUALITY MARINE, A NEIGHBORING FIRM, NNSC WILL SOON ORDER ONE ADDITIONAL TRAWLER FROM BENDER. BAYAGBONE SAID TWO PRIVATE SHRIMPING COMPANIES, PENNINGTON RIVER FISHING COMPANY OF PORT HARCOURT AND EYIBS NUTRITIONAL FOOD ENTERPRISES OF CALABAR, HAVE EACH ORDERED THREE 75 FOOT TRAWLERS FROM BENDER.

7. ACTION REQUESTED:

A) FOR OES/OFA: PLEASE NOTIFY APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT WOODS

HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE OF BAYAGBONA'S INTEREST IN VISIT AS DESCRIBED PARAGRAPH 2 AND RELAY RESPONSE. IN ADDITION, YOU MAY WISH PASS NIOMR INTEREST IN OBTAINING ADVICE AND FORMING COOPERATION AGREEMENTS TO OTHER OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS ON U.S. EAST COAST. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND ACTIVE IN FIELD, AND THAT AT ONE TIME RETIRED AMBASSADOR THOMAS ESTES WAS ASSOCAIATED WITH THEIR PROGRAM.

B) FOR USDOC: US SUPPLIERS OF KIND OF EQUIPMENT FOUND ABOARD SOPHISTICATED RESEARCH VESSEL MAY BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING RESULTS OF ADVICE BAYAGBONE RECEIVES FROM US OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTIONS HE VISITS SINCE THAT WILL FORM BASIS FOR LATER TENDERS. MAY EVEN BE POSSIBLE ARRANGE FOR SUPPLIER REPS TO MEET BAYAGBONA WHILE HE VISITING VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

8. DECONTROL ON RECEIPT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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